

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 00457 270101Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 CU-04 EB-08 /032 W
-----041297 270732Z /21
R 251750Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9243

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EAID, AIFLD, HO
SUBJECT: AIFLD PROGRAM DIRECTOR/HONDURAS

1. EMBASSY INFORMALLY UNDERSTANDS THAT CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO

TRANSFER OF INCUMBENT AIFLD/HONDURAN COUNTRY DIRECTOR ROLANDO LEONARD

EMBASSY HOPES THAT THIS IS NOT THE CASE. LEONARD HAS BEEN DOING AN
EXCELLENT JOB WITH THE IMPORTANT HONDURAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND HAS
EARNED

THE CONFIDENCE OF KEY LEADERS. EMBASSY HAS NOT TALKED WITH LEONARD
WHO IS ON HOME LEAVE AND, OF COURSE, WOULD NOT OBJECT TO A TRANSFER
IF HE WANTS IT. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS SOMEWHAT UNFAIR TO TRANSFER HIM
WHEN
HE HAS JUST BECOME SETTLED AND WHEN THE AIFLD PROGRAM IS BENEFITING
MOST FROM HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE COUNTRY.

2. MR. LEONARD HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE
FREE AND DEMOCRATIC LABOR MOVEMENT. A NEW LABOR OFFICER HAS ONLY
RECENTLY ARRIVED. IF THE POSSIBLE NAMING OF THE LABOR OFFICER AS
REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE IS APPROVED, IT WILL CUT DOWN ON THE
ATTENTION THAT CAN BE GIVEN TO THE HONDURAN LABOR MOVEMENT, MAKING
CONTINUITY MORE DESIRABLE.

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3. WHILE THE PRESENT LEADERSHIP OF THE DEMOCRATIC UNIONS HAVE
DONE WELL IN A NUMBER OF SKIRMISHES RECENTLY WITH THE COMMUNISTS,
DUE PRIMARILY TO THE CONTINUED MASTERFUL ABILITY OF FESITRANH
LEADER CELEO GONZALEZ, THE PROBLEM REMAINS AND CAN BE
EXPECTED TO INTENSIFY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IT ALSO SEEMS LIKELY THAT
WITH AGING LEADERSHIP OF THE HONDURAN LABOR MOVEMENT, WE ARE
ENTERING A CRITICAL PERIOD. (FYI: CELEO GONZALEZ, FOR EXAMPLE,

DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE BEST OF HEALTH AND HAS OCCASIONALLY HINTED
AT RETIREMENT.)

4. FOR THE FOREGOING REASONS, THE COUNTRY TEAM STRONGLY BELIEVES
THE TRANSFER OF MR. LEONARD WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON OUR
PROGRAMS HERE AND REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT TO TRANSMIT COUNTRY
TEAM CONCERNS TO AIFLD/WASHINGTON.

JARAMILLO

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Message Attributes

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